

REMARKS

At the time of appeal, claims 1-7, 13-16 and 18-22 were pending, all of which stood rejected. In the Decision on Appeal mailed January 30, 2008, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences issued a Decision on Appeal in which the rejection of independent claim 1 was reversed and the rejection of independent claim 13 sustained. The Board also sustained the rejection of independent claim 18 and dependent claims 20-22 and reversed the rejection of dependent claims 2-7, independent claims 14 and 15 and dependent claims 16 and 19.

In the Office action mailed May 29, 2008, the Examiner indicates that independent claims 13 and 18 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 14-16 and 19-22 are currently pending in the application.

The Examiner, in the Office action mailed May 29, 2008, provides applicants with a one-month time period to present dependent claim 19 in independent format. In response to the Examiner's requirement, applicants have amended claim 19 herein to place it in independent format by adding the limitations previously appearing in independent claim 18. Applicants have also amended claims 20 and 21 herein to make each depend from claim 19, rather than upon from canceled claim 18.

Accordingly, all of the pending claims (i.e., 1-7, 14-16 and 19-22) are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,  
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